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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT

Some fundamental principles and norms for inclusion in the "Declaration on Disarmament" envisaged in the draft agenda of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, approved by the Preparatory Committee on 18 May 1977

Mexico: working paper

All the peoples of the world have a vital interest in the outcome of disarmament negotiations.

General and complete disarmament under effective international supervision should be the final objective of mankind.

Gradual progress towards this end requires the harmonization of partial agreements and authentic measures for disarmament.

A progressive reduction of nuclear weapons with a view to their total elimination should have the highest priority among such measures.

The reduction and elimination of weapons of mass destruction should also be raised to a high priority.

The development, production and storage of napalm and other incendiary weapons must be prohibited, and such as exist in the arsenals of all States should be destroyed.

The international transfer of conventional weapons should be limited and regulated.

International verification constitutes an indispensable part for many disarmament measures. The use of a combination of various methods of verification offers the best guarantee.

The adoption of the disarmament measures should take place in a balanced manner so as not to endanger the security of any State.

The creation of nuclear-free zones and zones of peace constitutes one of the most effective disarmament measures within the reach of those States which do not possess nuclear weapons.

Nuclear States must fulfil faithfully the obligations which, in accordance with the definition approved by the General Assembly, they have with regard to the nuclear-free zones and the States which comprise such zones.

The reduction of the military budget of the permanent members of the Security Council and other militarily important States would constitute a laudable measure of disarmament.

There is a close relationship between disarmament and international peace and security, on the one hand, and disarmament and development on the other. Nevertheless, progress in one of those spheres must not be deemed subordinate to progress in the other and vice versa.

The growing arms race and the resultant waste of resources are incompatible with the decisions of the United Nations for the establishment of a new international economic order based on justice and equity.

A considerable part of the resources freed by the adoption of disarmament measures should be devoted mainly to the promotion of the economic and social development of the developing countries.

It is necessary to have an acceptable balance of mutual responsibilities and obligations for nuclear and non-nuclear States.

The proliferation of non-nuclear weapons could endanger the security of all States and would make it even more difficult to achieve general and total disarmament under effective international supervision.

Access to nuclear technology for peaceful ends constitutes an inalienable right of all States which is subject only to the relevant provisions incorporated in multilateral instruments for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Conditions should be established for the utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful uses, for it would help to narrow the gap between the developed and developing countries.

In accordance with its Charter and innumerable resolutions of the General Assembly, the United Nations has a primordial role and responsibility in the sphere of disarmament.

The former requires the General Assembly to keep itself duly informed regarding all steps taken in the sphere of disarmament, whether unilateral, bilateral, regional or multilateral.

The deliberative machinery of the United Nations should be reinforced through the institutionalization of a world conference on disarmament on terms acceptable for all Member States.

The organization and procedure of the conference of the Committee on Disarmament should be modified so as to be acceptable for participation by China and France.

World public opinion should receive adequate information on the progress of work on disarmament, so that it may exercise its influence for the reintensification of the efforts begun with a view to obtaining positive results in this field.

Non-governmental organizations recognized by the United Nations must have at their disposal all the documentation necessary for them to carry out their supplementary work effectively.